

Missouri Assessment Program Spring 2004

Communication Arts

Released Items

Grade 3

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Session 3 Item Numbers 1–41 *TerraNova*® test materials copyright © 2000 by CTB/McGraw-Hill LLC. *TerraNova* is a registered trademark of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Directions

This is a true story about a young girl and police dogs. Read the story. Then answer Numbers 7 through 12.

A Dog's Life

Photos by Gary Shults



Stephanie Taylor is a big fan of dogs that collar criminals.

collar = capture

But the California eleven-year-old knows how dangerous it can be. A report she saw about a New Jersey police dog that was shot and killed in the line of duty nearly broke her heart.

But she didn't just get teary-eyed; she got busy. She created Vest-A-Dog, an organization that provides bullet-proof vests to dogs that work on the streets with police officers.

"I believe these dogs are working every day to go out there and protect us, so I feel like we should protect them," says Stephanie.

Often, police dogs are sent after suspects who are hiding. It's the dogs' job to find the bad guys and attack them, if need be. It's tough; if the criminal wanted to give up, they wouldn't be hiding in the first place. The dogs are trained fighters, but sometimes the criminals have weapons.

"A bullet-proof vest for a dog covers the back and most of the vital organs in its chest," said Stephanie. Just like the vests worn by human

vital organs =
parts of the body
necessary to live



officers, the dogs' bullet-proof vests are made of kevlar, a light and soft material that is tough enough to stop most bullets.

The vests are lightweight, but still too heavy for a dog to wear full time. "I think most of the time, if they're in a very dangerous situation, then the officers put them on the dogs; they don't wear them all the time," Stephanie says.



Since starting the Vest-A-Dog program, Stephanie has spent more and more of her time working on the project. “At least every day there’s something to do, an email to answer, packages to be sent out,” she says.

So far, the group has raised over \$40,000 and equipped more than eighty police dogs with life-saving vests. More than fifty vests have been provided to protect all the law enforcement dogs in San Diego County, near where Stephanie lives.



Go On ►

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7

What is the main idea of “A Dog’s Life”? Explain your answer using ONE detail from the story.

8

What are TWO problems with the dog vests? Use information from the story in your answer.

1.

2.

9

How do the pictures in “A Dog’s Life” help you understand the story?
Give TWO examples.

1. _____

2. _____

10

Read this sentence from the story “A Dog’s Life.”

**“A report she saw about a New Jersey police dog that was shot and killed
in the line of duty nearly broke her heart.”**

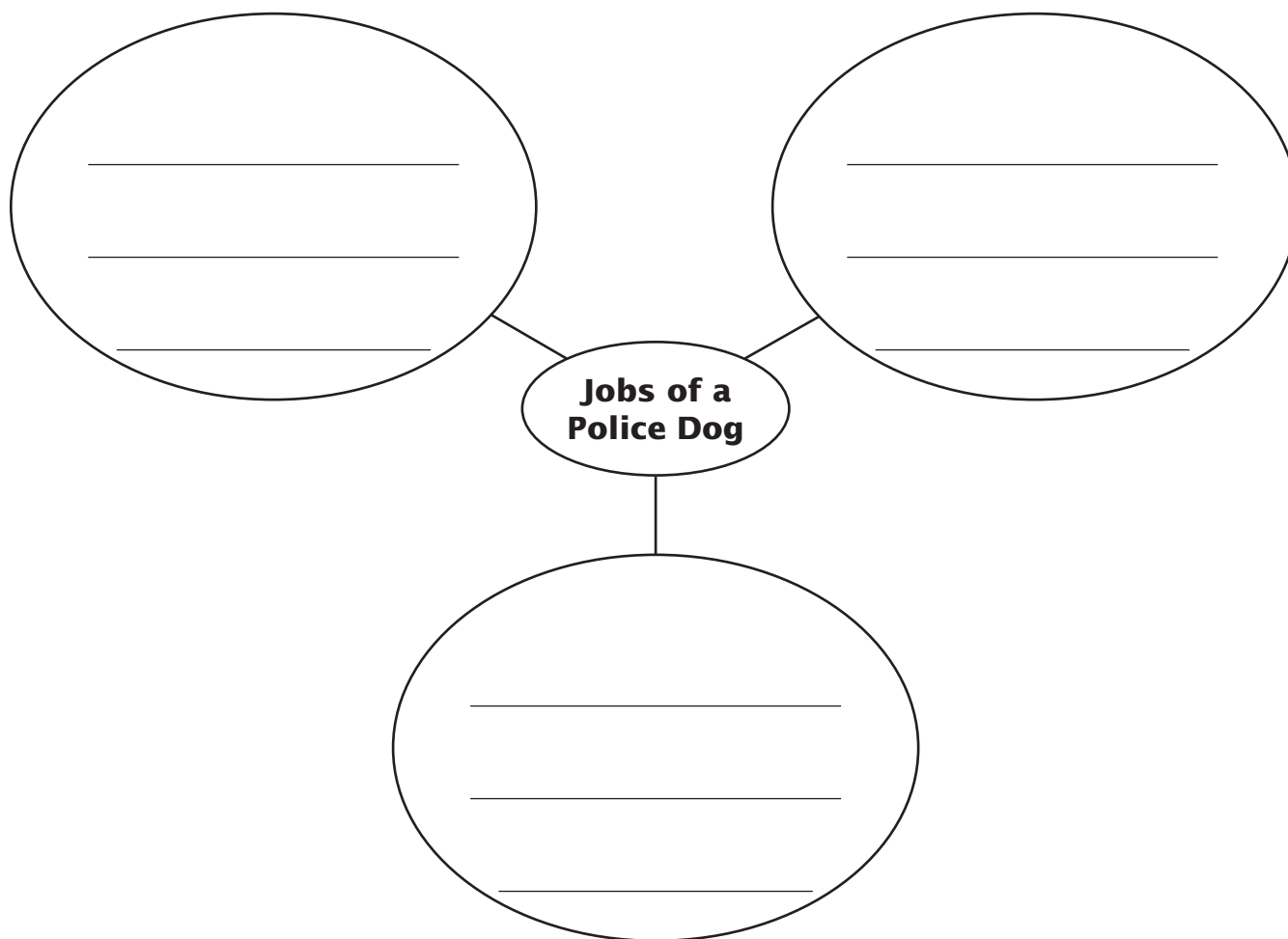
What does in the line of duty mean in the story?

Explain in your own words what you found in the story to help you understand
the meaning of in the line of duty.

Go On ►

The story tells how police dogs help people. Complete the web to show THREE of these ways. Use information from the story.

POLICE DOGS HELP PEOPLE



12

Pretend you work with Stephanie Taylor in her Vest-A-Dog organization. Write a letter to a police department explaining about Vest-A-Dog. Include TWO details from the story in your letter.

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Go On ►

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

The stories you have read are about heroes. Write a story about how you or another young person becomes a hero. Explain why the person in your story can be called a hero.

Go On ►

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FINAL COPY

Directions


Now you have time to revise your draft. Reread your draft and think about the Writer's Checklist below. Check every box that makes a true statement about your draft.

Writer's Checklist



- ☐ My paper has a beginning, middle, and end.
- ☐ My paper stays on the topic.
- ☐ My paper uses details and examples that support the topic.
- ☐ My paper has complete sentences.
- ☐ My paper includes correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

For every box you did not check, make the needed changes on your draft before you write your final copy on Pages 5 through 10.

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